

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WILSHIRE CENTER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION**

A meeting of the Board was held on October 22, 2015 at 3600 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California for the purpose of transacting all proper business of the corporation and of the Advisory Board for the Wilshire Center Business Improvement District.

The meeting was called to order. Written notice of this meeting was sent or personally delivered to all Directors of record on the books of the corporation at such time and with such contents as required by the Bylaws of the corporation. Board members present were Niall Kelly, Paul Kim, Mike Hakim, Vivian Campbell, Mike Sarebanha, and Jen Gibo.

The following guests were in attendance: Julie Thomas and Norma Vega from Red Cross; Ben Pak, Field Deputy to Senator Kevin De Leon; Steve Houchin, prosecuting attorney for the Olympic Division; Vito Palazzola, Captain, LAPD Olympic Division; Raul Claros, Field Deputy, Councilman Herb Wesson's office.

Captain Palazzola and Steve Houchin discussed homeless in our district. They see it as the #1 issue – homeless individuals are now more likely to be involved in criminal activity, either as perpetrators or victims. Homelessness is increasing, and may get worse.

A comprehensive understanding of the issue and collaboration with others, such as Hope Project, LASA, the Council Office, etc., is needed. Outreach efforts to the homeless are helped by the involvement of PATH, Homeless Health Care Los Angeles, the LAPD, the Council Office, the WCBIC, etc.

A key element in helping mitigate this issue is that police officers are now acting as interventionists, a critical component in getting homeless off the streets. Recently, thanks to the combined efforts of the LAPD and others, 18 people are now off the street in the Wilshire Center BID, having been placed in shelters.

The question of why homelessness is worsening was discussed. Early release of criminals, mental illness, and service resistant individuals are some of the major reasons.

By using a nurturing approach, more of the homeless may be helped. Getting to know individuals, helping out by giving socks, asking if they would like help, are some of the ways the LAPD is breaking through. Storage facilities for people's belongings are needed, their property cannot be viewed as trash. A storage facility can hold items for 90 days, if the items are not picked up by then by the owner, the items are trashed.

However, enforcement still needs to be done in some cases.

The WCBIC will continue to explore ways to help out, perhaps through funding for storage facilities and community clean-ups. The BID explored funding for an additional caseworker, but found this to be not cost effective.

The issue of homelessness at the Library was discussed. The LAPD is aware of the problems there, and is working on it.

Board members discussed the issue of aggressive skateboarders who are threatening the security officers at their buildings. Several suggestions to discourage skateboarders from using a premises were made by Captain Palazzola and Steve Houchin; soften sharp edges which are attractive to skateboarders, put benches in plaza areas to make skateboarding difficult, put up "No Skateboarding" and "No Trespassing" signs. Threatening behavior should be reported to police.

The difficulty in dealing with squatters at apartment buildings was discussed. It is important to catch them early (before 14 days) before they establish the apartment as their

residence by having their mail delivered there and setting up furniture. Citizen's arrest can be made under certain circumstances, but once residency is established the landlord may have to go through eviction procedures. It is important to notify LAPD of vacant buildings and spaces so they can watch those areas.

Raul Claros and the Council Office are working with the LAPD, WCBIC, etc. on area cleanups; he is in discussion with RFK school concerning parking issues; working on Lafayette Park Skateboarding issues, and working with Project Hope, as well as addressing other concerns in our district.

Julie Thomas discussed the efforts of the Red Cross in making Koreatown more resilient, working toward emergency preparedness in this very densely populated area. She is hoping for a coordinated effort to build a coalition to help deal with this. In the event of an emergency where people are displaced, there are only 1,200 facilities here to take in a population of 125,000 people. The Red Cross offers emergency preparedness classes also.

There are a lot of home fires here in Koreatown. The Red Cross has a home fire campaign where they test smoke alarms and detectors, and replace ones that are broken free of charge. One goal is to install 500 smoke detectors in apartment buildings and they are looking to property owners to help with this. It was mentioned that apartment buildings here are already required by code to have working smoke detectors, and it would be more productive to look at single family residences for this project. But they can also arrange meetings with apartment residents to conduct preparedness classes.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved.
The Board Report was reviewed.

The question of parking at RFK School was discussed – there is not enough parking at the school. Only 2 spaces per classroom have been allocated. Can we explore renting out parking in surrounding office buildings for the school's use? Mike Russell will put Mike Hakim in contact with the school's management to discuss this.

The sidewalks down Wilshire and adjacent sidewalks are in need of cleaning. Proposals will be obtained for gum removal and pressure washing. The Board would like to see more regular sidewalk washing.

There will be a public hearing for WCBID approval on November 17th, 10AM at the L.A. City Council. The final vote will take place on December 15th.

Election of officers: the Board approved re-election of the full slate of officers as-is.

Mike Hakim is looking toward this spring/summer for breaking ground on his 269 unit apartment building on 8th and Catalina, and looking at completion sometime in 2018. The initial concept was to have 27 stories, but may have slightly less.

The next board meeting will be held on January 21, 12:00 noon @ 3600 Wilshire Blvd., 16th floor conference room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mike Sarebanha as Secretary